NJMC consumes only about 5% of total raw jute consumption of jute industry. The prevailing prices are above MSP and hence the jute growers have not been affected adversely due to any absence of buying support from NJMC.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Soldiers from Punjab killed in Kargil

2144. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons from Punjab killed/injured, rank-wise, in the Kargil War recently;

(b) the number of their families/next of the kin to whom compensation has been paid so far;

(c) what is the criteria to sanction compensation, rank-wise, to the families; and

(d) the number of families given jobs so far in lieu of killed personnel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The number of Army personnel from Punjab killed in the Kargil conflict in as under:—

(i)	Officer	1
(ii)	Junior Commissioned Officers	3
(iii)	Other Ranks	32

Details of injured personnel are not being maintained State-wise by Army Headquarters.

(b) The families/next of kin of all the Kargil martyrs have been paid ex-gratia amount and other compensation as per their entitlement.

(c) A statement is attached. (*See* below)

(d) As per available information, the State Government of Punjab is providing job to one dependent of each martyr of the Kargil conflict.

Statement

A comprehensive welfare package has been provided to the next of kin and families of the Armed Forces Personnel killed in the Kargil conflict. This includes ex-gratia lumpsum compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs; liberalised special family pension on the basis of last pay drawn by the deceased soldier; and death gratuity and family gratuity as per specified rates, as applicable. Apart from the above, the following assistance has been provided from the National Defence Fund (NDF); Rs. 5 lakhs for dwelling unit; Rs. 1 lakh per child for education upto two chiidren per family; Rs. 1.20 lakhs for

needy parents who were dependent on the deceased soldiers. An additional ex-gratia amount of Rs. 30,000/- has also been provided from the Army Central Welfare Fund. Besides, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has separately earmarked LPG dealership/distributorships for allocation to the next of kin of the Armed Forces Personnel killed.

The criteria for payment of ex-gratia and assistance from the NDF are the same irrespective of ranks.

Logistics for Troops in Siachen

2145. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for exploring means to improve logistics for troops in Siachen; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to improve logistics for troops posted in the hostile terrain?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The requirement of logistics support to the troops in Siachen is being continuously reviewed. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to provide requisite logistic support to troops to enable them to perform their assigned tasks effectively.

Some of the important measures that have been taken in this regard are listed below:—

Armament

(a) Improved automatic grenade launcher (lighter version) with upgraded ammunition.

(b) Night sight for weapons

(c) Light weight binoculars

(d) Additional sniper rifle with night sight

(e) Availability of upgraded ammunition for 155 mm gun

(f) Disposable Rocket Launchers

(g) State of art Sub Machine Carbine for special Forces

Communication

(a) Deployment of modified communication grid. Improved exchanges, radio sets and state of art radio sets.

(b) VSAT for reliable communication.